

SJMO Hospital Policy & Procedure POLICY COD

Employee Discipline

125-HPP-Y-4

Exhibit

PURPOSE:

To ensure that disciplinary action is administered on a fair, equitable and consistent basis according to the SJMO-MO commitment to promoting quality improvement and safety in all processes, systems, and actions.

POLICY:

The St. Joseph Mercy Oakland-Member Organization (SJMO-MO) is committed to providing a learning environment in all aspects of our work. This learning environment promotes quality improvement and safety in all processes, systems, and actions. The key to enhancing quality and safety is building trusting and respectful relationships with patients, employees, Medical Staff, and volunteers that is reflective of the Trinity Health values.

PROCEDURE:

Discipline is issued when an employee: (1) deliberately disregards established rules, regulations, policies, procedures, processes or systems; or (2) is involved in criminal activity; or (3) provides false information in the course of performing their job responsibilities.

The specific level of discipline issued is dependent upon the seriousness of the infraction. SJMO-MO recognizes Section A - Minor Infractions and Section B - Major Infractions. Infractions that relate to the making or reporting of errors/injuries or "near misses" (potential conditions for error or injury), hazardous conditions or aberrant behavior will be addressed separately in Policy 125 AAA

A. MINOR INFRACTIONS

6/10

DATE:

Minor infractions will result in an employee being issued discipline in a progressive manner based upon the seriousness of the infraction. Normally, the progression will be as follows:

1st Infraction - Written Warning

2nd Infraction - Written Reprimand

3rd Infraction - Suspension Without Pay

4th Infraction - Final Warning

5th Infraction - Discharge From Employment

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SJMO Hospital Policy & Procedure

POLICY COE SUBJECT:

Employee Discipline

125-HPP-Y-4

Minor infractions include but are not limited to:

- 1. unacceptable job performance
- 2. failure to adhere to departmental or SJMO-MO standards with respect to personal hygiene, grooming, clothing, and uniforms
- 3. rudeness to patients, employees, physicians, volunteers, vendors, or visitors
- 4. failure to promptly report an on-the-job injury within 24 hours to supervision
- 5. violation of minor security, fire, traffic, smoking, or parking regulations
- 6. unauthorized solicitation on the premises
- 7. failure to record/punch shift starting and/or shift ending time
- 8. failure to follow reasonable departmental call-in procedural guidelines
- 9. unauthorized absence from work area
- 10. presence in unauthorized area

B. MAJOR INFRACTIONS

Major infractions will result in an employee being issued either a Final Warning or Suspension Without Pay or Discharge based upon the seriousness of the infraction. **Major** infractions include but are not limited to:

- 1. theft, removal or unauthorized possession, tampering, or use of property belonging to another employee, patient, visitor or SJMO-MO.
- 2: unlawful or unauthorized use, manufacture, possession, sale or transfer of illegal or controlled substances on or off SJMO-MO premises. Possession, abuse or unauthorized use of alcohol on SJMO-MO premises. Evidence of use or reporting to work under the influence of alcohol, illegal or controlled substances is based on reasonable cause to believe that an employee is not in a condition to perform her or his duties due to chemical impairment which may be evidenced by:
- 3. inability to perform assigned job
- 4. undesirable influence (such as breath, behavior, uncooperativeness toward patients, staff, visitors and/or other employees).
- 5. refusing to submit to medical evaluation including testing when reasonably suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- 6. immoral conduct or indecency on the SJMO-MO premises
- 7. punching another employee's timecard or having another employee punch your time card
- 8. falsification of payroll or other SJMO-MO records
- 9. falsification of identifying self or business purpose or actions with patient, another employee or the public
- 10. fraudulently reporting unavailability for work
- 11. assault
- 12. sabotage
- 13. using obscene, abusive or threatening language
- 14. mistreatment of patients, employees, physicians, volunteers, vendors, or visitors
- 15. possessing firearms, knives or other unauthorized dangerous materials on the SJMO-MO premises
- 16. willful destruction of SJMO-MO property
- 17. insubordination (willful disobedience of an order given by the supervisor which does not pose a safety problem for the employee).

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Employee Discipline

- 18. sleeping or assuming the posture of sleep while on duty
- 19. unauthorized ordering, access, possession, use, copying or revealing information about SJMO-MO business and activities or about employees'/patients' conditions, business, or activities
- 20. lack of compliance with the Trinity Health Organizational Integrity Program or the
- 21. Organizational Integrity Program's Standards of Conduct or other laws and regulations relating to Trinity Health business activities.
- 22. performance that causes grave harm/potential grave harm to the patient or SJMO-MO
- 23. gambling on SJMO-MO property
- 24. improper or negligent acts that cause damage to, waste of, or loss of material, supplies,
- 25. equipment, facilities, or other property of SJMO-MO, or of a patient, an employee, or a visitor
- 26. failure to assist a patient if such service is within the scope of the employee's duties or is required by reason of an emergency relating to the patient
- 27. behavior which creates a hostile work environment such as threatened or actual physical violence, sexual harassment, racial harassment, or verbal abuse of a patient, visitor, staff, or another employee
- 28. walking off the job (abandonment of position)
- 29. conviction of a felony which has an adverse impact on the business condition of SJMO-MO

The employee's Director must consult with and receive the approval of both their respective Vice President and the Vice President for Human Resources prior to assessing such discipline. A complete review of the incident will occur and a determination made of its' seriousness and effect on patient care or employee morale. Also, the employee's past record will be reviewed by the Vice President for Human Resources who will recommend the appropriate level of disciplinary action consistent with action taken within SJMO-MO.

GENERAL:

SJMO-MO management reserves the right to exercise discretion to assess lesser or greater discipline based on the employee's record and extenuating or mitigating circumstances.

Active discipline for the purpose of issuing successive steps in the disciplinary action process cannot extend beyond two years from the date of the initial incident except in the case of discipline issued for Major infractions.

Completed Disciplinary Action forms containing all required information and signatures must be forwarded to Human Resources promptly for processing and filing. The employee copy should be given to the employee during the disciplinary conference.

The Human Resources Department is responsible for the interpretation and administration of this policy.

DATE: 6/10

SUPERSEDES: 8/08

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ANE J. McNEIL

August 10, 2011

29 that investigation; if you know? 1 this employee; is that correct? A. I believe both parties were interviewed, and there may 2 A. No. have been other interviews as well. Witnesses or -Q. Well, there were prior issues such that he or she was 3 management was interviewed as far as awareness. issued a final written warning; correct? Q. Am I correct that generally HR wants to get both sides 5 of the story in conducting an interview? Q. And presumably a final written warning implies that 6 Scratch that. there were issues prior to that; correct? In an investigation? A. Not necessarily, no. 8 A. Generally. Q. Do you know in this case whether the final written 9 There are times that we may not. 10 warning was literally the first disciplinary action this 10 Q. Why would the hospital in some scenarios not want to 11 11 person had received or not? speak with a party that was alleged to have done 12 12 A. Outside of this person receiving discipline for something improper? 13 attendance, which is a separate disciplinary tract, i 13 A. There may be times that that party may have -- the 14 14 actions may have been so severe that what they may have Q. So, they had an issue two, plus, years back, and then 15 15 said - I mean if they said they didn't do it and 16 they had another issue in 2011; correct? 16 everybody else was not speaking the truth, the hospital 17 17 has - I, HR, has a responsibility to make a judgment Q. What, if any, action was taken after this individual was 18 18 call based on the information that I'm receiving. issued a final written warning to ensure that those 19 Q. How many times have you been aware that the accused, so 20 behaviors didn't repeat; if you know? to speak, was not interviewed as part of the 21 A. I don't know. 22 investigation? Q. Was that employee counseled? A. That I'm recalling right now? 23 23 Q. Yeah. 24 Q. By whom? 24 A. I would say one time that I'm aware of. 25 A. Would have been counseled by her management. 25 30 Q. And that was Susan Zonia or -O. Was there some specific plan, like action plan or 1 1 A. No. corrective plan, put in place that was reviewed Q. - someone else? periodically with the employee to see if he or she was A. That was someone else. complying? Q. Was Susan Zonia interviewed as part of the A. I'm not aware if that was. Q. Is that something that the hospital sometimes utilizes investigation? A. I did not speak with Susan. or not? An actual plan? Q. Do you know if she was interviewed or not? A. She was spoken to by Martha and Don. Q. And you don't know the specifics of the prior issue that Q. When she was fired; right? resulted in this person being put on a final written 10 10 A. Correct. 11 waming? 11 Q. Is that considered an investigative interview? When 12 A. I don't recall specifically, and I don't want to guess. 12 you're spoken to at the time you're fired? Q. Okay. But it would have had to have been a major 13 13 A. She had an opportunity to ask for additional infraction, presumably, to have been issued a final 14 information. She also had an opportunity to utilize our written right off the bat? 15 problem-solving procedure process. 16 16 And how long did you say that investigation took? Q. Okey. That wasn't my question 17 17 MS. LAUGHBAUM: Could you read the question back? A. It may have taken anywhere from three to five days. 18 18 THE REPORTER: (Reading.) Q. Okey. And was the individual who was accused of the 19 19 20 inappropriate behavior interviewed as part of that "Question: is that considered an 20

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A. No.

BY MS. LAUGHBAUM:



Q. And with respect to the other investigation you

mentioned in 2011 having to do with Dietary Department,

nonmanagement employees, who was interviewed as part of

investigation?

A. Yes, she was.

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investigative interview? When you're spoken

Q. Who's the other person that you're thinking of that was

to at the time you're fired?"

ANE J. McNEIL

August 10, 2011

Q. Okay. So, before the break we were discussing how you 1 were going to give me certain information regarding the 2 3 other management level or above people that you've been involved in investigating in the last few years, and I think preliminarily, at least, we've agreed to talk about the departments and the job titles; is that right? MR. GUNSBERG: No. Just the departments, and they were management individuals. MS, LAUGHBAUM: Okay. All right. BY MS. LAUGHBAUM: 10 O. What were the -11 MR. GUNSBERG: The question had to do with 12 terminations she was involved with. 13

MS. LAUGHBAUM: That's correct. 14

15 MR. GUNSBERG: Okay.

MS. LAUGHBAUM: Okay. So, we're on the same page. 16

17 BY MS. LAUGHBAUM:

Q. So, there were two individuals besides Susan Zonia? 18

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Q. And what were the departments of each of those 20

individuals? 21

A. One department was Radiology the second department was 22

Urgent Care. 23

Q. Okay. So, these are employees that ended up being fired

following an investigation; correct?

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Q. And what was your role with respect to the investigation 2

of the Radiology person?

A. The - I wasn't the first HR person involved. The

associate that filed the complaint was also a member of

management and had been speaking to one of my

subordinates at the time.

At the point where I got involved, he wasn't

available to speak with her. So, the nature of it was

inappropriate -- allegations of inappropriate remarks,

comments; feelings of intimidation. 31

Q. What was the gender of the Radiology -- what was the 12

13 gender of the person fired?

14

15 Q. What was the gender of the management associate who

filed the complaint?

17

Q. And what were the inappropriate remarks? 18

Remarks such as - you know, basically threatening their 39

jobs. So, "If you don'i," kind of, "do it my way,

21 Woodward is right there."

Q. Was the person that was fired a physician? 22

23 A.

Q. And how long was that investigation; if you know? 24

A. Well, the investigation - I wouldn't - the 25

investigation that led to the termination was a very 1

short period of -- there wasn't an investigation that 2

actually led to the termination. There were allegations

being made by the associate, the supervisor, against the

other member of management, and then another person who

ultimately was terminated was also making allegations

So, there were various sessions and meetings held

hy both myself, the VP of that work area

So, I wouldn't necessarily call it an investigation

that led to the termination. 3.1

Q. All right. Well, how long was the whole process? 12

A. About ten months. 13

Q. And that was from the allegations surfacing to this

female manager in Radiology being terminated; correct? 15

A. There was - not necessarily. 16

17 Q. Okay.

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A. The allegations that both parties were making were not 18

fully substantiated, and the decision to terminate was 19

based on the inappropriate or lack of leadership that 20

the other manager was providing to the department. 21

MR. GUNSBERG: The higher level manager? Is that 22

who you're talking about?

A. The higher level manager, yes. 24

BY MS. LAUGHBAUM:

Q. What was the ten months? What was the process that took

A. Employee A coming to HR saying, you know, "Here's my

complaint."

The other - the other higher level manager

saying -- you know, approaching HR, not necessarily

being called by HR, coming to HR and saying, "Well, I

have this issue."

So, it was just an ongoing kind of back and forth

situation between the two that both parties were talked

to together and also individually regarding their 11

actions. 12

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Q. Did you conduct interviews in that matter, personally? 13

A. I spoke to both of them, yes. 14

Q. Do you know who else would have conducted interviews? 15

A. I wouldn't necessarily call them interviews. The VP of 16

that work area also spoke to them individually. 17

Q. Okay. Let's move to the Urgent Care situation. 18

Strike that. 19

The Radiology termination was what year?

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21 Q. And how about the Urgent Care termination?

22 A. 2010.

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Q. What month in 2010; if you know? 24

A. You know, I don't recall. 25

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August 10, 2011 ANE J. McNEIL 57 Q. And what were they? manager? A. Yes A Performance concerns. 2 Q. And what did they complain of? O Like? 3 A. Intimidating work environment, non-trusting environment, A. Not - what I recalled is at that time they were going not knowing if they had a job to go to the next day, through a medical chart audit, making sure that the fear of retaliation, there were favorites in the associates that are working in the back office or that department. are medical assistants are following the procedure of So, they were afraid of saying anything or speaking intake for a patient. So, making sure that they have up, because they didn't want to - they didn't want to documented the weight, the height and the reason why the be subject to more of the same type of inappropriate 10 patient is being seen. 10 Q. And according to the -- was it the operations manager 11 Q. Okay. So, you listened to them. that said this wasn't happening? He or she had concerns 12 12 Did you take notes? 13 that this person was not doing that properly? 13 A. Not the operations manager. The Urgent Care manager. 14 Q. And what was the next step in the investigation? 15 Q. Okay. But the e-mail came from the manager over the 15 Was it at that point that you talked to the person that was fired? 16 16 manager? 17 37 A. Yes. A. No. It was at - the manager had requested to speak 18 Q. Okay. And so there were irregularities or omissions in 38 with myself and her operations manager. the - did you say the intake process? 19 19 My next step was to contact the operations manager A. From the perspective of the manager, yes, 20 20 and also Martha, as my boss, to notify them of the calls 21 Q. Okay. So, what's the next thing that happened with 21 that I had received and the allegations that were being 22 22 respect to this whole investigation? 23 23 A. The next thing that happened is, I started receiving Q. How long did this whole process take? 24 phone calls from several employees from that location. MR. GUNSBERG: What whole process? 25 Q. Okay. And they raised concerns about this person you 60 You mean from the complaint to -were investigating? BY MS, LAUGHBAUM: A. Yes. 2 2 Q. From the complaint to termination. Q. Do you know how they were prompted to call you? 3 A. About three weeks. MR. GUNSBERG: Object to the form of the question. Q. Okay, Is it then that you have the meeting with the "Promoted." manager and also the operations manager? You mean why they called? What precipitated that A. Correct. Q. And what was the result of that meeting? BY MS. LAUGHBAUM: A. All the allegations against her were talse. She did Q. Do you know what led them to call you? A. My understanding at the time is they were having similar 10 10 She did admit to having or engaging in issues that were raised in - that were raised in the 11 11 inappropriate text messages with her staff in which she letter, and they called me. 12 12 called out her cell phone and read me the text messages 13 Q. Going back to the e-mail, you told me about one sort of 13 back and forth. 14 specific performance concern that was in the e-mail. 14 O. What was inappropriate about them? 15 Were there any other specifics in the e-mail? Any 15 MR. GUNSBERG: Excuse me. Are you describing what more new information or specifics with respect to what 16 16 the Urgent Care manager said? this person was doing improperly? 17 17 A. One other item that I recall was surrounding her 18

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received four calls.

disagreement with a performance evaluation that she had

received. I can't recall the specifics around it.

A. Well, the very next day was a Saturday. So, I had

Q. All right. How many phone calls did you get from other

Q. Were these from people that reported to the Urgent Care

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MR. GUNSBERG: Is that what you're saying?

Q. So, you saw the text messages or she read you the text

MR. GUNSBERG: Okav.

A. She read me the text messages.

BY MS. LAUGHBAUM:

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ANE J. McNEIL

August 10, 2011

ĭ	tell an employee that HR directed you do this.	As a
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- manager, you have the authority to make sure that
- policies and procedures are being followed. So, if
- indeed she did violate a policy, they have the right to
- speak to her instead of using HR as a method of
- 6 communicating, if you will.
- Q. So, did Susie Swanson or Susan Zonia tell you that they
- s had told Pat what Pat alleged?
- 9 A. Yes
- 10 Q. And were either of them disciplined in any way for
- 11 whatever it is they said to Pat Davis?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Now, Pat Davis reported directly to Susie Swanson;
- 14 correct?
- 15 A. Correct.
- 16 Q. And indirectly to Susan Zonia?
- 17 A Yes
- 18 Q. Are you aware that Pal Davis do you know how many
- 19 times Susan Zonia had disciplined Pat Davis?
- 20 A. I'm not aware.
- 21 Q. Have you read Dr. Bignotti's deposition in this case?
- 22 A. No.

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- 23 Q. Are you aware that the hospital takes the position that
- 24 Ms. Davis should have been disciplined?

BY MS. LAUGHBAUM:

Q. Old you ever learn that?

- MR. GUNSBERG: Object to the form.
- 1 Q. Why?
- 2 A. Regarding an e-mail exchange between her and another

Q. And did you also learn that Pat Davis had included in those e-mails words to the effect that she was going to

Q. Any other complaints or concerns brought forward to you?

Q. Had you ever received positive feedback in your capacity

in HR with respect to Susan Zonia and the job she was

I believe you told me there was just the one.

Q. So, what is the first thing - I think it's uncontested

that Dr. Zonia was fired on October 1st of 2010.

When is the - what's the first thing you would

have become involved in with respect to any events

A. I received a call from Martha on, I believe, September

29th edvising me that she was placed on administrative

MR GUNSRERG: Object to the form.

set Susan Zonia up to fail?

O. You did not become aware of that?

Q. Have you ever learned of that since?

BY MS, LAUGHBAUM:

A. No.

A No.

Correct

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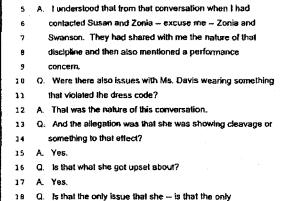
- 3 physician.
- 4 Q. Okay. Did you get any specifics at that time?
- 5 A. I was given specifics regarding the nature of that
- 6 e-mail exchange.

suspension.

7 Q. Did she send you the actual e-mail?

leading up to her termination?

- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. And who had placed Susan on suspension?
- 0 A. My understanding, Don Bignotti.
- 11 Q. And what was Martha asking you to do; if anything?
- 12 A. She was making me aware that her and Don had spoken
- 13 to they were requested to go up to the Medical
- 14 Education Department. The staff wanted to speak with
- 15 them. And they had requested a member of HR to talk
- 16 with them regarding their concerns. So, she was making
- 17 me aware that one of our associate relations specialists
- 18 was going to be investigating.
- 19 Q. Someone that reported to you was going to be
- 20 investigating?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Who is that?
- 23 A. His name is Ryan Hemandez.
- 24 Q. Did he ever end up doing that?
- 25 A. No.



Q. Did you understand that she had performance issues?

A. Yes. At that time.
Q. Did you ever become aware that Ms. Davis had sent out
several e-mails calling Susan Zonia some nasty names?

disciplinary issue that she was discussing with you?

23 A. I was - Susan and - Susan Zonia and Susle Swanson

24 shared with me during that call that Swanson - that -

25 yes, I was aware of that.

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August 10, ANE J. MCNEIL 93 residency program. They had requested to speak to HR regarding their Q. Aren't they classified as administrative; if you know? A. Q. Did you say this was precipitated by an e-mail exchange Q. You don't know or they're not? with Susan Zonia and another physician? A. I'm sorry. A. Yes. They are not Q. Who was the other physician? Q. What are they classified as? A. Dr. Payne-Jackson. A. They're exempt staff. Q. And was Dr. Payne-Jackson interviewed as part of this Q. What is the pay range of a medical education specialist? A. I don't recall. 10 I believe so. Q. Do you need a college degree for that position? 11 Q. Not by you? A. I believe the job description states bachelor's degree 12 Not by me. or equivalent work experience. 13 13 Q. By whom? Q. Do they all have a bachelor's degree; if you know? 14 It's an assumption. 14 A. I don't know. 15 By Don. 15 Q. And these individuals did not report directly to Susan Q. How, as you understood it, did this issue with 16 16 Zonia, with the exception of Ms. Swanson; correct? 17 Or. Payne-Jackson flow into, if it did, these five or 17 A. Correct. 38 six people wanting to talk to HR? 18 Q. So, did you just meet with them and say, "Tell me A. It's my understanding that there was an e-mail that 19 19 whatever you want to tell me about Susan, and I'll write 20 Payne-Jackson had sent out. Susan had responded to the 20 it down?" Or what was the format you followed? What e-mail intending it to go to Susan Swanson stating 21 were you trying to accomplish? 22 something about - I don't recall specifically, but A. What I said to each of them was, "I understand that you 23 giving her the cold shoulder will make her mad. 23 wanted to speak with me regarding concerns you have. 24 24 Susie Swanson became aware of it. Payne-Jackson Please understand that what you share with me will be contacted or forwarded the e-mail to Don Blgnotti, 25 25 96 94 discussed on a need to know basis, and that you should making him aware of the situation. Susan Swanson met 1 1 not -- I discussed with them the no retaliation policy with Don and shared with him her concerns and her 2 to put them at ease that they can speak freely to me involvement with that e-mail, and based on that Q. Was Don Bignotti present as well? discussion is when HR was asked to step in, if you will. He was present for either two or three of the Q. Okay. Do you know if Dr. Zonia had a discussion with Dr. Bignotti about this e-mail? interviews. Q. Did he meet with anyone when you were not present? Do A. I believe so. you know? Q. Do you know what was discussed? A. No, I don't know. A. Not specifically, no. Q. Now, some of the individuals that you interviewed had Q. Do you know whether Dr. Bignotti took the position that 10 this was a minor issue, a non-issue or some serious been disciplined by Susan Zonia; correct? 11 11 A Pal Davis. concern? 12 3.2 A. My understanding is a serious concern. Q. Any others? 13 13 A. Not that fin aware of, no. Q. And that's based on what? 14 Q. Are you aware that Dr. Zonia had counseled Susie Swanson His communication to me. 15 about coming in late on multiple occasions? 16 But you weren't privy to what he and Dr. Zonia actually discussed: correct? Q. Did you ever learn that Susie Swanson was upset about A. No. 18 10 that? 19 Q. So, you sat down with these people, and these are - are 20 they medical coordinators? Is that their job title? 20 21 A. Medical education specialists: 21 Q. Did you ever learn that Susan had spoken to Susie Swanson, that is, Susan Zonia had talked to Susie 22 Q. Okay. And they are administrative people; correct? 22 Swanson about Susie appearing to be overly medicated on 23 A. Not necessarily, no. 23 Q. Well, what type of role do they play? 24 24 A. No. A. They support program directors with the medical 25



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2011 August 10, ANE J. MCNEIL at that time? Q. Did you learn that Susie was open about the lact that 1 A. No. But if concerns were raised regarding her, we would she was under treatment for some mental health issues? have looked into those. Q. Have you seen any paperwork generated as a result of Q. Have you ever learned that Ms. Swanson has mental health this investigation other than your own handwritten issues? statements? A. Yes. A. I don't know if I can answer that question. Q. In the course of this litigation or previously? What type of paperwork? No. Any paperwork. Q. I don't understand your answer. A. Not during the course of this investigation. You know there's a one-page document? A termination Q. Okay. And how did you become aware of these issues with 11 document; correct? 12 13 A. Indirectly, I have -- I work with -- I shouldn't say 13 Q. And there's your handwritten notes of the people that 14 "indirectly," but I have kind of a dotted line with our 14 you interviewed on September 30th, 2010? 15 Employee Health Department. 15 Q. Did you ever learn that Ms. Swanson on the job was 16 16 Q. Have you seen anything else with respect to the 17 feirly vocal about the mental health issues she was 17 investigation? Anything else in writing at all? 18 having and the fact that she was on medications for 18 A. I saw the e-mail. 19 39 I don't recall. I don't believe I've seen anything 20 MR. GUNSBERG: Object to form. 20 else 21 21 A. Can you repeat that? Q. Was there any summary put together of witnesses' 22 MS, LAUGHBAUM: Would you read that back? 22 23 testimony? THE REPORTER: (Reading.) 23 "Question: Did you ever learn that 24 Q. Or any recommendations put in writing that you saw? 25 Ms. Swanson on the job was fairly vocal about 25 100 the mental health issues she was having and 1 Q. What did you do after you had compiled these notes? the fact that she was on medications for A. I met with Don and Martha. those issues?" Q. On the 30th or the following day? BY MS. LAUGHBAUM: On the 30th. Q. So, do you remember who you interviewed last on the Did Susie Swanson appear to be credible to you? 30th7 A. A. No. Q. Have you subsequently learned that after Susan Zonia was Q. Thave Pat Davis at 3:00 p.m. I don't know if you had gone, that the same people that gave statements about Susan Zonia have said that Susie Swanson has created a one subsequent to that. 10 10 hostile work environment? Do you know? 11 11 A. I don't recall. I time and date my documents. So, if A. No. 12 12 it says 3:00, that may have been my last meeting. 13 Q. Was Susie Swanson investigated at any time by Human 13 Q. Do you remember when you met with Ms. lafrate? 14 Resources: if you know? A. I recall it being somewhat - sometime in the morning or A. During my meeting with those associates, I asked them an 15 15 open-ended question. 16 16 Q. Okay. And did you meet with Dr. Bignotti and Martha . Q. Which was what? 17 17 Murphy on September 30th? A. "I understand you want to share concerns with me. 18 1 B A. Yes Please feel free to do so," and shared the 19 19 Q. And what was discussed? non-retaliation policy. 20 20 A. Discussed the nature of the meetings and shared with Some shared with me concerns they had with Susia. 21 21 them that based on what I had -- the remarks that were Q. But this was in the context of an investigation into 22 22 made to me by the associates, and based on my review of Susan Zonia's behavior: correct? 23 23 our standards of conduct policy and employee discipline 24 24 Q. Susie Swanson was not the subject of the investigation 25 policy, that the behavior that is described is not



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integrity?

not appropriate.

A. (Nods head.)

BY MS. LAUGHBAUM:

A. I didn't hear the question.

honesty or integrity.

Q. That's a "yes"?

A. Yes.

A. And she relayed that as well.

an investigation; correct?

ANE J. McNEIL Q. You know there is a policy? I believe there is one. his girlfriend's daughter, who's a nonmedical student, A. I don't know. BY MS. LAUGHBAUM: 10 11 12 13 14

Q. Do you know what the job shadow policy essentially says?

Q. Do you know whether or not that proposed shadowing of

could raise HIPAA concerns?

MR. GUNSBERG: Objection. Form of the question.

Q. Did Ms. Zonia's termination fall within any of the

categories on the employee discipline policy, Exhibit 1?

A. Thirteen, 21, 27, and again I would say number 3. 15

Q. All right. With respect to 27, hostile work 16

environment, you're not claiming that Dr. Zonia singled 17

out people based on some protected category, such as 18

age, gender, religion, race or the like, are you? 19

A. No. 20

21 Q. What was the hostile environment based on?

The fact that associates had concerns and were afraid to 22

bring them forward because comments that Ms. Zonia made, 23

such as, "I make a lot of money for this hospital. So, 24

Jack Weiner would not get rid of me." Or, "I have 25

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August 10,

friends down the admin coordinator, and I'm 1

untouchable." 2

Q. Have you read Dr. Zonia's deposition transcript?

A. I read half of it, yes.

Q. Do you know that she vehemently disputes many of the

allegations that have been made against her?

Q. And you have worked with her in the past; correct?

Q. You got along with her fine? 10

You found her to be credible at the time? 12

A. At the time of what? 13

Q. At the time you worked with her investigating residents. 14

15 A. For the most part, yes.

Q. And you didn't have any reason to question her on her 16

honesty or integrity at that time; correct? 17

18 A. No, you are not correct.

Q. Why? 39

25

A. There were times that during an investigation she may 20

have - she used inappropriate language in my presence, 23

and I would comment -- I kind of said to her, "Susan," 22

23 you know. And she kind of laughed it off, if you will.

24 Q. Okay. So, you didn't appreciate some of the language

she would use, but how does that relate to whether or

25

Q. How did that -- my question had to do with Dr. Zonia's

Q. You had a difference of opinion with respect to how this

not you had any reason to question her honesty or

A. There was another situation when we were conducting an investigation, and she was - she was interjecting her

own personal life experience onto this person, and when

her present, because she had set up a dynamic that was

You had a difference of opinion on how to conduct

I spoke to her later that evening, I asked her if she

Q. How did that reflect on her honesty or integrity?

THE REPORTER: I'm sorry. Is that --

investigation should be conducted; correct?

could allow me to proceed with the investigation with

I think that was my question.

How did that translate in your mind to raising some

issue about honesty or integrity because you disagreed with how she wanted to do an investigation?

A. The way it translated to me was not questioning her

honesty, but her integrity when it came down to her

presence during the investigations. Her

professionalism.

Q. What was the integrity issue?

Well, I already asked you about professionalism, 9

and I think you testified however you testified.

believe you said you generally found her to be 11

12 professional: correct?

13 A. "For the most part," I responded.

14 Q. So, what's the integrity issue?

I don't understand your testimony. 15

A. So, can you ask me the question again, please?

16 Q. Yeah.

I asked you if in your dealings with Dr. Zonia you 18

had any reason to question her honesty or integrity

I'm trying to figure out what you're talking about. 20

A. Okay. My response after discussing it with you is no. 21

Q. Thank you. 22

I'm going to show you what has been marked as

Bionotti Deposition Exhibit Number 2. It's the 24

disciplinary action which I think you reviewed prior to



Toll Free: 800.866.5560 Facsimile: 248,205,7040



Exhibit

SUMMARY OF GME STAFF COMPLAINTS ABOUT SUSAN ZONIA

Susan Swanson (Monzur).

- Dr. Zonia says F word a lot asked her to stop; Zonia says she has "freedom of speech";
- Tell staff she is "untouchable" because she is friend of higher management;
- Belittles staff:
- Tells Susan Swanson to give people "cold shoulder". eg Dr. Payne Jackson, Dr. Cotant;
- Has inappropriate conversations about Zonia's sex life, eg. comments about a doctor who stutters and makes me want to "pull his dick" to make him stop;
- Talks about her sex life with her boyfriend;
- Tells Swanson she shouldn't limit her sex life to her husband; talks about "cheating" on her boyfriend, had to give her boyfriend more blow jobs for helping her move;
- Refers to Swanson as her secretary and treats her as such;
- Calls management and doctors names like Dr. PJ is a "bitch", doctor at awards dinner an "ass";
- Makes negative comments about CEO of hospital;
- Makes negative comments about hospital training programs;
- Says she like to create atmosphere of fear;
- Said to throw away all the crucifixes;
- Says people who believe in God are stupid;
- Leaves early to meet with her boyfriend;
- She makes too much money for hospital so they won't fire her;
- Says Deb Reid, a staff employee, "needs to get laid".

Patricla Davis

- Told to throw away crucifix;
- Refers to Drs and other as "bastards";
- Intimidated, bullied and harassed for past 6 months, write ups given as harassment;
- Leaves early;
- Told her that her job is in jeopardy.

Muriel lafrate

- Tells her training programs are stupid;
- Uses F word;
- Refers to meetings as "waste of time";
- Always closes her door;
- Always does her nails;
- Smells like alcohol in the morning;
- Demeans us by always referring to herself as "the one with the PhD";
- · Openly talks about her sex life
- Leaves work for dates;
- Referred to Reverend Moore as a "f___ing indiot"
- Disclosed Dr. PJ's surgery;
- Rude to staff.



Gail Molitor

- Tells staff that she's not happy with any of us;
- Refers to Kanzi as "lazy bastard";
- Strongly encourage us not to meet with Dr. Bignotti;
- Told "get with the program or bail";
- Belittles staff;
- Talks about people openly and makes remarks about others;
- Refers to hospital training programs and missions as "bunch of rumbaya"
- She has sarcastic and demeaning behavior.

Deb Reid

- Uses profanity in office, F word, called physician "bastard";
- Can't go to her, puts her hand up and dismisses me;
- Puts down religion;
- Sex discussions.

Deneen McCall

- St. is "dismissive"
- Refers to Dr. Payne Jackson as a "bitch";
- Refers to Dr. Dioczok as an "idiot";
- Door always closed, spends time doing her nails;
- Leaves early for dates;
- Talks about doctors she doesn't like;
- Talks about her sex life, dates, guys she goes out with;
- Talks about not caring about students so long as she get the money in;
- Constantly uses the F word;
- Dismissive of the staff;
- Refers to training programs as "stupid";
- Probes us for confidential information;
- Tell us she has friends in management and HR; and we are afraid to go to HR because Susan Zonia has friends in HR who protect her;
- I am very stressed; looking for another job.

AFFIDAVITS

- 1. Gail P. Molitor
- 2. Susan L. Swanson
- 3. Patricia A. Davis
- 4. Mariel Infrate
- 5. Debra K. Reid
- 6. Deneen McCall

STATE OF MICHGAN

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

SUSAN ZONIA,

v,

Plaintiff,

CASE NO. 11-116369-CD HON, JAMES M. ALEXANDER

TRINITY HEALTH-MICHIGAN d/b/a ST. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITAL, PONTIAC, A domestic Corporation,

Defendant.

DEBORAH L. GORDON. PLC
Deborah L. Gordon (P27058)
Carol Laughbaum (P41711)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
33 Bloomfield Hills Parkway, Ste. 275
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48034
Telephone: 248.258.2500

LAW OFFICE OF DAVID B. GUNSBERG, P.C. David B. Gunsberg ({24235})
Attorney for Defendant
322 North Old Woodward Avenue
Birmingham, MI 48009
Telephone: 248.646.9090

<u>AFFIDAVIT</u>

I have reviewed the attached notes taken which accurately reflect what I told Ane McNeil during the investigation of Susan Zonia. I adopt the attached notes as my true and accurate testimony regarding Susan Zonia.

Date: 8-16-2011

Sign: Gail P. Molitor

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

Rolain of August, 2011

Notary Public, State of Michigan

County of Oakland

My commission expires: 02-10-2014

Acting in the County of: Oakland

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STATE OF MICHIGAN



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

SUSAN ZONIA.

Plaintiff,

٧.

CASE NO. 11-116369-CD HON. JAMES M. ALEXANDER

TRINITY HEALTH-MICHIGAN d/b/a ST. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITAL, PONTIAC, A domestic Corporation,

Defendant.

DEBORAH L. GORDON, PLC Deborah L. Gordon (P27058) Carol Laughbaum (P41711)

Attorneys for Plaintiff

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Bloomfield Hills, MI 48034 Telephone: 248.258.2500

LAW OFFICE OF DAVID B. GUNSBERG, P.C.

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David B. Gunsberg ({24235) Attorney for Defendant

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Telephone: 248.646.9090

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Print Name:

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

Notary Public, State of Michigan

County of Macon

My commission expires: 12-16-20.

Acting in the County of: Oaklan

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STATE OF MICHIGAN



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

SUSAN ZONIA,

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Plaintiff,

Lighten

CASE NO. 11-116369-CD HON, JAMES M. ALEXANDER

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Attorney for Defendant
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Birmingham, MI 48009 Telephone: 248.646.9090

AFFIDAVIT

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Date: 8/15///

Print Name:

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

15th day of Avaust 201

Notary Public, State of Michigan

County of Oakland

My commission expires: 02 - 10 - 2014

Acting in the County of: On Kland

General Comments

Wanted to throw away crucifix.

Slams office door closed when overhead prayer comes on.

Witnessed talking to Dr. Stein disrespectfully (sent memo to Dr. Bignotti a few years ago).

Puts hand up to be dismissed when she wants to end conversation.

Can hear swearing from other end of hall. ("Bastard" when hanging up phone.)

Told Susie that Donna and I were friends and that I was given special treatment. Donna and I were friends before Donna became manager.

Dr. Zonia is a vindictive person and this has been witnessed by all of us and experienced by me. Dr. Zonia cannot be taken at her word.

When Susic joined us, she asked for proxy to my calendar. When I did the proxy, I did not realize that I sent her my e-mails along with the calendar. At the time, Susie said I did it correctly. Susie opened and read my e-mails addressed to Donna. She passed this information on to Dr. Zonia. I did make some comments, (Susie was bland) and (her office looked like a shrine). I said Dr. Zonia was leaving early "again". I was brought in with Gary Rice and Susie to discuss. After discussion, I was told by Susie that I should have been fired for using the computer inappropriately and that I tried to sabotage her, which I did not. Tapelogized to Susie, wrote an apology letter to Susie and Dr. Zonia. It was agreed at the table that Susic and I would make a fresh start. It was suggested that I go to Team, which I did, and I had 4 coaching sessions with Susie.

For the last 6 months a fresh start did not happen. I have a in warning for my behavior about the e-mails. I received a 2nd warning for performance improvement. I was verbally given a warning for wearing an inappropriate blouse, and received a 3rd warning for insubordination, rudeness and negativity. I have been told by Susie that I am rude to my co-workers, faculty, residents, and outside vendors. I met with Ane McNeil 2x during this time period. It was at my insistence that you sign the disciplinary actions because I wanted you to know what was going on. I believe they were hiding it from you.

I have been told not to talk to anyone because I am on "thin ice". When I have been reprintanced by Susie or Dr. Zonia and have disagreed with them, they have said to me, "Are you calling me a liar"? I have been told numerous times in the last six months, by Susie and Dr. Zonia that Martha Murphy said "to just let her go". Dr. Zonia also told me that Dr. Bignotti said to "just let her go".

I have been intimidated, bullied, and harassed for the past 6 months. I have worked under a microscope daily afraid to being viewed as deficient. My health took a decline during this period of time. I was at the point where I was either going to take a medical leave, find another position, or hire an attorney.

I believe these write-ups by Susie were driven by Dr. Zonia, however, Susie played a big part in them as well.

My recent evaluation reflected the events of the last 6 months. I received a total of 2.4 for overall with a -0- in the section of Mission and Values. I have been employed for 33 years and never received a disciplinary action or bad evaluation. It's amazing to me that in 6 months time I have had three disciplinary write ups and one verbal disciplinary.

More detailed notes of the last six months are housed in the HR department.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

SUSAN ZONIA,

Plaintiff,

CASE NO. 11-116369-CD HON. JAMES M. ALEXANDER

V.

TRINITY HEALTH-MICHIGAN d/b/a ST. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITAL, PONTIAC, A domestic Corporation,

Defendant.

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Telephone: 248.646.9090

AFFIDAVIT

I have reviewed the attached notes taken which accurately reflect what I told Ane McNeil during the investigation of Susan Zonia. I adopt the attached notes as my true and accurate testimony regarding Susan Zonia.

Date: August 15, 2011 Print Name:

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

15th day of August 2011

Notary Public, State of Michigan

County of Oakland

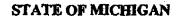
My commission expires: 02-10-2014

Acting in the County of: Oa Kland

Case 2:10-cv-10978-PJD-MJH ECF No. 211-1, PageID.3748 Filed 04/24/12 Page 32 of 50

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

SUSAN ZONIA,

Plaintiff,

CASE NO. 11-116369-CD HON, JAMES M. ALEXANDER

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TRINITY HEALTH-MICHIGAN d/b/a ST. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITAL, PONTIAC, A domestic Corporation,

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Print Name:

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

15th day of August, 201

Notary Public, State of Michigan

County of Oakland

My commission expires: 08-10-2014

Acting in the County of: Oakland

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Johns beg men who dwest believe a weether thank why are they have they have they have they have they have told Deb - putter down religion - sex discussions Felt 2 mia was cantims where become of her (Doch's) beliefs.	
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF OAKLAND

SUSAN ZONIA,

Plaintiff,

CASE NO. 11-116369-CD HON. JAMES M. ALEXANDER

TRINITY HEALTH-MICHIGAN d/b/a ST. JOSEPH MERCY HOSPITAL, PONTIAC, A domestic Corporation,

Defendant.

DEBORAH L. GORDON. PLC Deborah L. Gordon (P27058) Carol Laughbaum (P41711)

Attorneys for Plaintiff
33 Bloomfield Hills Parkway, Ste. 275
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48034

Telephone: 248.258.2500

LAW OFFICE OF DAVID B. GUNSBERG, P.C. David B. Gunsberg ({24235})
Attorney for Defendant
322 North Old Woodward Avenue

Birmingham, MI 48009 Telephone: 248.646.9090

AFFIDAVIT

I have reviewed the attached notes taken which accurately reflect what I told Ane McNeil during the investigation of Susan Zonia. I adopt the attached notes as my true and accurate testimony regarding Susan Zonia.

Sign:

Dencen McCall

Print Name:

Date: 8-15-2011

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

adaza L. Museon

Notary Public, State of Michigan

County of Oakland

My commission expires: 02-10-2014

Acting in the County of: Oa Kland

	1 ana Dm
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2	Dinciek Idiot
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9	- walks in while doing her nails
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Susan **Zonia** 7/15/2011

2 (Pages 2 to 5)

	P	age 2		Page 4
1	APPEARANCES:		1	Birmingham, Michigan
2	CAROL LAUGHBAUM P41711		2	Friday, July 15, 2011
3	Deborah L. Gordon, PLC		3	10:36 a.m.
4	33 Bloomfield Hills Parkway		4	SUSAN ZONIA,
5	Suite 275		5	having first been duly sworn, was examined and testified
6	Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48934		6	on her oath as follows:
7	(248) 258-2500		7	MR. GUNSBERG: Good morning. Would you give
8	Appearing on behalf of the Plaintiff.		8	the court reporter your full name, please?
9	., .		9	THE WITNESS: My full name is Susan Catherine
10	DAVID B. GUNSBERG P24235		10	Zonia, 2 O N I A.
11	Law Office of David R. Gunsberg		11	MR. GUNSBERG: This is the deposition of the
12	322 North Old Woodward Avenue		1.2	plaintiff, Susan Zonia, in the captioned matter taken
13	Birmingham, Michigan 48009		13	pursuant to notice for this time and place.
14	(248) 646-9090		14	EXAMINATION BY MR. GUNSBERG:
15	Appearing on behalf of the Defendant.		15	Q. Ms. Zonia, have you had your deposition taken
16			16	previously?
17	ALSO PRESENT:		17	A. Not in this case, but yes.
18	Martha Murphy * * *		18	Q. How many times before? A. Once before.
19	* * *		19 20	O. And what was that matter that you were deposed in?
20			21	A. That was a matter concerning a student that rotated at
21 22			22	St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital in which Mr. Gunsberg
23		j	23	represented me and the hospital in the complaint that
24			24	the student filed.
25			25	O. Do you know what years that lawsuit was active?
	Pa	age 3		Page 5
_				A. War and the same of the blowns is some 2007, marketing
1	TABLE OF CONTENTS Witness Page		2	A. I'm going to guess. I believe it was 2007, perhaps 2008.
3	Witness Page SUSAN ZONIA		3	Q. And the lawsuit was eventually it was dismissed by
4	EXAMINATION BY MR. GUNSBERG	4	4	the court?
5		}	5	A. Correct.
5 6			5 6	A. Correct. And did Mr. Woodward appeal; if you know?
	INDEX TO EXHIBITS		_	Q. And did Mr. Woodward appeal; if you know?
6	INDEX TO EXHIBITS (No exhibits)		6	Q. And did Mr. Woodward appeal; if you know?A. To the best of my knowledge, he has appealed.
6 7			6	Q. And did Mr. Woodward appeal; if you know?
6 7 8			6 7 8	Q. And did Mr. Woodward appeal; if you know?A. To the best of my knowledge, he has appealed.Q. Do you know the outcome of the appeal?
6 7 8 9	(No exhibits)		6 7 8 9	 Q. And did Mr. Woodward appeal; if you know? A. To the best of my knowledge, he has appealed. Q. Do you know the outcome of the appeal? A. I believe it was also dismissed. Q. The appeal was dismissed? A. I believe it was but I'm not certain.
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Susan Zonia 7/15/2011

Page 6



3 (Pages 6 to 9)

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- A. Correct.
- Q. And I'll try to let you finish your answer before I ask another question,
- A. Correct. I understand.
- Q. If you think I've interrupted you, you'll let me know so
 - I can let you finish the answer. Okay?
- A. Thank you, yes.
- 8 Q. If you don't understand a question I ask you or you
- 9 disagree with the question or the form of the question,
- 10 would you let me know that so I can try to ask the
- 11 question in a different way?
- 12 A. Yes, I will do that.
- 13 Q. Please try to say yes or no or I don't know or answer 14 verbally otherwise -- as opposed to um-hmm
- 15 (affirmatively) or uh-huh (negatively) or nods of the
- 16 head because the court reporter can't take that down.
- 17 Okay?
- 18 A. Yes, I understand.
- 19 Q. And sometimes I talk in a sort of furching way so you
- 20 can't tell when I'm finished. And so give me a chance
- 21 to try and finish the question so we don't step on each
- 22 other with your jumping in to answer before I finish.
- 23 Okay?
- 24 A. Yes. I understand.
- 25 Q. Did you review any of the documents that were produced

Page 8

Page 9

- Q. Did you have a personal computer, that is a computer in addition to your office computer, where you maintained notes or diaries or calendar entries, that type of
- thing?
- MS. LAUGHBAUM: Let me clarify, you're asking other than what she might have prepared for counsel, I presume.
- BY MR. GUNSBERG:
- Q. Well, while you were employed at St. Joe, did you prepare any documents for counsel?
- 11 A. While I was employed at St. Joe's did I prepare any 12 documents for counsel?
 - MS. LAUGHBAUM: Or in --
- 14 MR. GUNSBERG: For a lawyer.
 - MS. LAUGHBAUM: Or in anticipation, I think is
-]16
- THE WITNESS: Oh, I didn't anticipate
- 18 litigation, so no.
- BY MR. GUNSBERG: 19
- 20 Q. So while you were employed at St. Joe, did you keep any 21 notes or records like on a diary or calendar, on a
- 22 personal computer, notes or records related to your job?
- 23 A. The only thing that I had on a personal computer were 24 particularly nice notes from support staff that I sent
 - to my own E-mail account, hot mail. And I have produced

Page 7

- 1 in this case by the defendant?
- A. Yes, I did many several weeks ago. I couldn't give 2
- 3 you an exact date but when they came to my counsel, I
- was asked to come in and review them.
- 5 Q. Did those documents include notes of witness interviews
- 6 that had been done during an investigation that was
 - conducted in the September, 2010, time frame?
- 8

7

- 9 Q. Did you review any other notes or documents, for
- 10 instance, notes that you kept yourself while you were
- 11 employed at St. Joe?
- 12
- 13 Q. Have you produced all of those documents to us in this
- 14 case?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Did you keep any kind of a calendar or diary while you
- 17 worked at St. Joe where you wrote down either meetings
- 18 or significant events or things that people said, things
- 19 like that?
- 20 A. Yes,
- 21 Q. Do you have such a diary or calendar?
- A. I don't because it was those notes were made on my 22
- office computer.
- Q. Did you keep a copy of those elsewhere? 24
- A. No, I did not. 25

- those for counsel since they were in my possession. The
 - other notes are not in my possession.
- 2 Q. So your testimony is that you took the nice notes and
- you sent those over to your personal computer but any
- 5 other notes or records you did not?
- A. No, I did not. 6
- O. Where do you live?
- A. I live at 1372 Devon Lane in Troy. 8
- Q. How long have you lived there? 9
- 10 A. Almost two years.
- 11 O. Is that a house or a condo?
- 12 A. It's a condo.
- 13 Q. Do you own the house or the condo?
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. Is it paid of?? In other words, did you pay cash for 1,5
- 116 it?
- 17 A. I have a mortgage.
- 18 Q. Has anybody ever foreclosed or threatened foreclosure on
 - the mortgage?
- 20

19

- Q. The mortgage is up-to-date?
- 21 22
- Q. And where did you live before that? 23
- 24 A. I lived in Novi, 25854 Lochmoor Lane, Novi.
- 25 Q. And why did you move?

